

Minutes – FCSC June 17

Call to Order

David Lange, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order.

Attendees: David Lange, Tim Jones, Margie Lance, Chris May, Annie Jones, Ron Kaltenbaugh, Joe Richardson, Robert Black, Mike Uecker, Chris Voell, Jerry Donald, Shannon Moore, Daniel Saltzberg

Guests: Mayor Karen Tome (Brun.), Amy Castle-Rogers (GW), Antoinette Vasseur(Brun), Carol Pickett (GW), Ramerta Cottrell (GW), Michael Swanson (Terra Solutions), Rich Maranto (self), John Daniels (self), Cindy Unangst (Middletown), Dustin Bane (EMAT), Brad Gottschall (FT. D.), Sylvia Carrignan (FNP)

Brunswick Sustainability Initiatives

Antoinette Vasseur from Brunswick provided an overview of the 'Passive House' that she is building in Brunswick. The house is designed to reduce energy consumption by 80% and water use substantially.

Brunswick Mayor Karen Tome provided an overview of the efforts that the City of Brunswick has initiated in regards to advancing sustainability such as Waste Not Brunswick, "Sustainable Saturdays," a myriad of education programs, pay as you throw assessment, the Green Homes Challenge, rain barrels, community garden and others. Brunswick will be applying to be a participant in Sustainable Maryland program. Mayor Tome acknowledged the assistance that Shannon Moore and OSER had provided to the City on its many efforts. Brunswick will be focusing on 'Green Schools' efforts in the near future.

In recognition of these efforts, County Council Member Jerry Donald presented a "Sustainability Award" to Mayor Tome on behalf of the Sustainability Commission.

Vice Chair's Items

Approval of May Minutes – Chris Voell made motion, seconded by Robert Black; passed unanimously
FCC-FCSC Sustainability Event (Friday, October 16, 2015)

David Lange provided an overview of the recent meeting with Sue Adams, FCC, relative to planned October 16 event. Material for the FCC ILR brochure has been provided to Sue Adams. Jerry Donald respectfully declined the offer to speak. Shannon Moore will invite and confirm Executive Gardner for the opening session. David Lange will convey agenda changes to Sue Adams. Chris Voell and David Lange will work towards finalizing draft speaker agenda and work to promote the event once complete.

Goodwill Monocacy Valley Recognition

David Lange presented a "Sustainability Award" to Amy Castle-Rogers of Goodwill for their neighborhood pickup program, allowing residents in areas distant from Goodwill drop-off centers an opportunity to donate items. The program is currently active in Brunswick and Goodwill is looking to expand into Middletown. Chris Voell asked if the data on volumes was being reported to OSER or SW and Utilities. Amy C-R stated that Goodwill keeps good records on volumes collected. Shannon Moore to check on whether this is being recorded towards County recycling goals.

Subcommittee Reports and Discussion

Sustainability Plan – Ron Kaltenbaugh reported on activities related to the Plan. Chris Voell suggested that we add this back onto the July agenda to discuss how waste management will be treated in the FCSC Plan in light of Executive Gardner’s appointment of the ‘What’s Next’ committee to address this topic.

Spot-Recognition Certificates – Margie Lance challenged the FCSC to figure out ways to more fully leverage the awardees, to better promote their efforts and use it as a way to spread information and knowledge. Ron Kaltenbaugh thought an idea would be to make sure all awardees were covered on the FNP “Green Page.”

County Executive – SWM Options Study

Shannon Moore provided an overview of the County Executives efforts related to waste management and the recent forming of the “What’s Next” Committee. Shannon reported that Joe Richardson and Chris Voell had been appointed to serve on the Committee representing the FCSC.

John Daniels, Chair of the Committee provided a historical perspective relative to the genesis of the Committee, and reported that Kai Hagen and David Gray had been added to the original eight representatives that had been appointed. Mr. Daniels outlined the expected plan related to studying options for the County - Phase 1 – outreach and education; Phase 2 – evaluation of options; Phase 3 – bid build. The first action will be for the Committee to provide feedback relative to an RFP that the County released through the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority. The contractor chosen will assist the County and Committee in structuring the public engagement efforts. Mr. Daniels stressed that Executive Gardner wants to make sure the process is transparent and open, and focuses on public engagement. Two of the primary components of the study will be four to five public meetings to receive feedback, and a four-season waste sort. Joe Richardson reiterated the fact that he and Chris Voell are representatives of the FCSC and will act as a conduit for information flow.

OSER Updates

Shannon Moore provided updates on several on-going efforts of the County:

- 2016 budget has been approved
- Power Saver Retrofit Program will be launched soon
- MD Smart Energy – lighting retrofit at Health Department, electric bus purchase
- County currently has five electric vehicles in its fleet
- Chesapeake Bay Initiative

Commission Members Items of Interest

Ron Kaltenbaugh – notified members of EV workshop on June 30; suggested the FCSC sponsor a future workshop to allow FC municipalities to share knowledge and information relative to sustainability initiatives

Shannon Moore – reminded all FCSC members about State of the County address on June 26; reported that about 20 people recently attended a stormwater management workshop provided by the

Chesapeake Bay Alliance – focus of the workshop was identifying stormwater infrastructure system failures and protocols for same

Mike Uecker – announced that his firm had been chosen as a provider for the ‘Power Saver’ program; he recognized and thanked Shannon Moore and OSER for their efforts around this program

Chris May – reported that solar install business is very robust at present; two examples - a new 100 kW install was happening at locally at TSC and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation was moving forward with a project their Annapolis facility

Joe Richardson – thanked OSER for their assistance as he evaluates what path to take in installing 2 MWs of solar at his property; considering traditional model as well as Community Solar

Margie Lance – brought vermicompost and worms to share with FCSC members; encouraged members and the public to visit website for more information on how to produce high quality fertilizer and compost ‘tea’ through this process

Robert Black – recognized the growing efforts in Thurmont related to sustainability, with one effort being new efficient lighting; also reported that stinkbugs are back and that he is working with USDA on eradication efforts.

Public Comments

Rich Maranto – let all know that the “Community Solar” program at the state level will provide a very tight window for participation; he also notified the FCSC that he and Ron Kaltenbaugh will be planning the ‘Solar Tour’ for next fall

Brad Gottschall – expect ribbon cutting for Ft. Detrick solar project April 2016

Best Wishes to Margie Lance

David Lange recognized Margie for her leadership during her three terms on the FCSC.

Tim Jones recognized Margie for her roles as Chair, Committee Member, and de-facto ‘historian’ for the FCSC. He thanked her for her commitment and passion, and presented her with a ‘Leadership in Sustainability Award’ on behalf of the County and FCSC>

Next Meeting

July 15, 2015

Adjourn

David Lange adjourned the meeting at 4:50 pm.